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Teaching Encounters

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Teaching Encounters

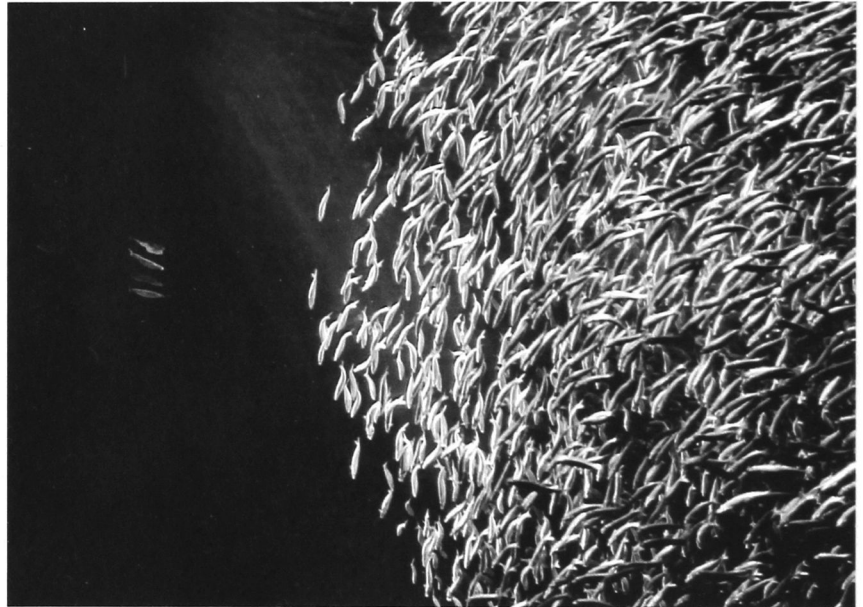
by Carla McGill

We are all watery.
The school of fish watch me intently.
I am a dolphin; my smile should tell that.
But they treat me like a shark.

That one in the last row is glaring at me,
perhaps due to the last test.
Another hides back in the coral,
demure and afraid.

In front are the eager ones.
I explain the assignment:
explore your caves, shells,
and seaweed beds,

recalling Thoreau, as well as
recent theories of description
outlined in our textbook,
Essay Writing for Sea Animals.



Do I see bulgy eyes roll up back there?
Write an essay telling about yourself
through the description. Two pages.
Bubbles of relief from the middle group.

I swim home during teeming hammerhead
traffic and ponder the assignment.
Those recent theories are flawed, I think.
Next time I'll use *Whale's Manual of Style*.